

Recovery Plan Action Status

Plan Name: Recovery Plan for the Kootenai River Population of the White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*)

Plan Status: Final

Plan Date: 30-Sep-99

Lead Agency: USFWS

Lead Office: Idaho Fish And Wildlife Office

(7208)

(378-3243)

Species	Action Priority #	Action #	Action Description	Action Status	Est. Initiation Date	Est. Completion Date	Responsible Parties	Work Type	Labor Type	Action Comments
White sturgeon (<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>)	1	111	Conduct public review of and approve new operational guidelines for Libby Dam.	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2006	Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Begin in 1999
White sturgeon (<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>)	1	112	Implement new operational guidelines to provide annual flow regimes to benefit white sturgeon in the Kootenai River basin.	Complete	FY 2006	FY 2006	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Costs include foregone power production; possible flood control costs, need to be determined.
White sturgeon (<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>)	1	113	Coordinate Libby Dam flow releases during April through August to achieve an optimum combination of water temperature and discharge volume.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		British Columbia Hydropower, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Instream management to fine-tune augmentation.
White sturgeon (<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>)	1	114	Store water in Koocanusa Reservoir prior to spring runoff to achieve white sturgeon flow targets.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	115	Conduct agency coordination for implementing white sturgeon flow augmentation program.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		British Columbia Hydropower, Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	U.S./Canada coordination
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	116	Kootenay Lake Evaluations	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	117	Evaluate alternatives increasing peak Kootenai River flows	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	118	Use existing authorities to conserve and restore Kootenai River white sturgeon.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Section 7 consultation on Libby dam operations.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	121	Monitor potential residential or agricultural flooding, levee erosion, and groundwater seepage resulting from flow augmentation.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Concurrent with Task 112

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	122	Identify opportunities to restore natural floodplain functions along the Kootenai River	Ongoing Current	FY 2007	FY 2009	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Kootenai River White Sturgeon Recovery Team, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Management: Planning, Research: General, Research: Habitat Requirements, Research: Habitat Status	Contract	Part of overall ecosystem restoration plan as required by 2006 Libby BiOp RPA
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	123	Develop public information program to explain USACE past and current flood control compensation program.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	1-2 year public information program.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	124	Monitor impacts of flow augmentation on Kootenai River levees and Kootenay Lake in British Columbia	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	New monitoring program may be needed.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	125	Assess consolidation of white sturgeon spawning and incubation, habitat quality, and potential substrate improvement measures.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 321
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	211	Obtain necessary local, State, Tribal, Federal, and Canadian approval and permits for all conservation aquaculture activities.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Need to obtain permits annually e.g. Section 10
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	221	Determine water quality standards for KTOI hatchery	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2000 - FY 2004	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	1 year as part of Task 224
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	222	Upgrade KTOI hatchery to meet conservation aquaculture objectives.	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2000 - FY 2004	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Complete upgrade begun in 1998. Cost accrued beginning in 1998.

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	223	Maintain Kootenai Trout: trout hatchery as a secondary rearing facility	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2000 - FY 2004	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Contract costs part of dollars allocated as part of task 222.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	224	Implement the conservation aquaculture program	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Costs of operating existing KTOI hatchery, out year costs be higher if hatchery is expanded.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	231	Use adopted white sturgeon broodstock collection protocol	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2005	Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 224
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	232	Collect adequate numbers of male and female broodstock to maintain the genetic quality	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 224.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	233	Annually evaluate the conservation aquaculture program.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 224 will be evaluated annually.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	241	Evaluate appropriate production goals.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 224.

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	242	Develop a fish health plan for hatchery.	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2006	Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 224.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	243	Develop tagging protocols for hatchery reared white sturgeon.	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 224.

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	244	Develop a policy for hatchery white sturgeon produced in excess of beneficial uses identified in this plan.	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	May require need for Section 10 permits. Funded as part of 223.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	245	Evaluate feasibility of establishing an experimental white sturgeon population outside of the current occupied range.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Recovery Team unanimously recommended to the Service at November, 2007 KRWSRT meeting that the Service explore the possibility of establishing an experimental, "failsafe" population in Koocanusa Reservoir, although not as a top priority.

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	25	Release hatchery reared white sturgeon into the Kootenai River basin	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Commission on Water Resources Management, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 224
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	251	Adjust white sturgeon releases as necessary, to meet objectives of the Kincaid breeding plan.	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 224

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	261	Determine factors limiting production (natural and hatchery) and habitat use patterns for each life history stage.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 321.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	311	Sample adult and juvenile white sturgeon in the Kootenai River and Kootenay Lake	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, British Columbia, Canada, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 321.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	312	Collect and preserve tissue and blood samples for genetic analysis system.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, British Columbia, Canada, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 321.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	313	Compile catch data to refine white sturgeon population size estimates annually in the Kootenai River basin.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 321. Kramer Fish Sciences submitted a draft revised population estimate in August, 2010. Draft is currently being reviewed.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	314	Develop a juvenile white sturgeon year class index.	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2000 - FY 2004	Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 321.

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	321	Describe response of spawning white sturgeon to various Kootenai River flows, water temperatures, and Kootenay Lake elevations.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	120 K of this total is for monitoring effects of augmentation in Kootenai Reservoir.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	322	Measure white sturgeon spawning annually.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 321.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	323	Measure white sturgeon larval, fry, and juvenile abundance and distribution in the Kootenai River and Kootenay Lake annually.	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 321.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	324	Quantify sturgeon spawning incubation habitat and early rearing habitat using IFIM	Ongoing Current	FY 1995 - FY 1999		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Begin in 1997, funded as part of 321.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	331	Assess the necessity of increasing nutrients in the Kootenai River.	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2005	Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 321.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	332	Use computer modeling to refine and analyze recovery tasks.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Either 1996 or 1997

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	341	Compile existing information on contaminants in the Kootenai River	Ongoing Current	FY 2008		Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Funded as part of Task 331.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	342	Conduct contaminant bioassays to evaluate the effects of selected chemicals on white sturgeon.	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Research: Environmental Contaminants	Internal Technical Assistance	Part of recovery task 331. FY07 - conducting studies on effects of chlorine on sturgeon.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	41	Develop a Participation Plan to support implementation of the Kootenai River white sturgeon recovery plan	Ongoing Current	FY 2006		Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Pacific Fishery Management Council, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Will be completed as part of final recovery plan.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	2	421	Recommend additional research and management regarding ecosystem and fishery improvement measures for the Kootenai River Basin.	Not Started			Kootenai River White Sturgeon Recovery Team	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Ongoing as needed.

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White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	3	44	Determine the indirect recovery needs of foregone power generation.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		British Columbia Hydropower, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	511	Collect baseline abundance, distribution and reproduction data for kokanee in Idaho Kootenai River tributaries	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Ongoing.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	521	Determine distribution and life history of burbot	Ongoing Current	FY 2005		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Ongoing.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	522	Determine secondary impacts from proposed flow augmentation program on burbot reproduction.	Ongoing Current	FY 2005		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Costs part of Task 521.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	531	Determine the status, distribution and habitat use of rainbow trout in the Kootenai River from Libby Dam to Bonners Ferry	Discontinued	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Ongoing
Bull Trout (Salvelinus confluentus), White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	541	Determine distribution and status of bull trout in tributaries of the Kootenai River	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Started in 1996, ongoing.
Bull Trout (Salvelinus confluentus), White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	542	Identify additional conservation measures to protect bull trout in the Kootenai River drainage in Montana, Idaho and B.C.	Ongoing Current	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Using results from Task 541
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	1	551	Determine the secondary effects of proposed white sturgeon flow augmentation on mountain whitefish	Discontinued	FY 2000 - FY 2004		Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Bonneville Power Administration	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	

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Bull Trout (Salvelinus confluentus), White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	3	561	Effects of flow augmentation on TGP in the Kootenay River and Columbia River downstream of Kootenay Lake.	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2000 - FY 2004	Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Canada projects
Bull Trout (Salvelinus confluentus), White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	3	562	Effects of flow augmentation on the Duncan and Arrow Reservoir/Lower systems	Complete	FY 2000 - FY 2004	FY 2006	Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	Canada projects.
White sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)	3	6	Assess the overall success of implementation of the recovery plan and revise accordingly	Ongoing Current	FY 2007		Kootenai River White Sturgeon Recovery Team	Work type not yet selected	Labor type not yet selected	